

Application Serial No: 10/815,151

Responsive to the Office Action mailed on: March 11, 2009

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on March 11, 2009. Claim 1 is amended and is supported, for example, on page 10, line 35-page 11, line 2 and in Figures 2B and 3. No new matter is added. Claims 1, 3-5 and 30 are pending.

§102 Rejections:

Claims 1, 3 and 4 are rejected as being anticipated by Shizuki (US Publication No. 2003/0134186). This rejection is traversed.

Claim 1 is directed to an energy device comprising a winding body in which a band-shaped laminate having a flexible elongated substrate, a negative collector, a solid electrolyte, a positive active material, and a positive collector in this order is wound in a plate shape with the flexible elongated substrate placed inside. Claim 1 further recites adjacent layers of the flexible elongated substrate, the negative collector, the solid electrolyte, the positive active material, and the positive collector respectively are in close contact with each other.

Shizuki does not disclose or suggest these features. In particular, nowhere does Shizuki disclose or suggest that adjacent layers of the flexible elongated substrate, the negative collector, the solid electrolyte, the positive active material, and the positive collector respectively are in close contact with each other. In contrast, Shizuki is directed to a cell in which a strip positive electrode 2 having positive mixture layers on a positive substrate and a strip negative electrode 3 having negative mixture layers on a negative substrate are flatly wound with a separator 4 in-between using a lamination process (see paragraphs [0025] and [0046] of Shizuki). Accordingly, the strip positive electrode 2 and the strip negative electrode 3 are produced separately and wound with the separator 4 interposed there-between, as opposed to claim 1 which recites a band-shaped laminate having a flexible elongated substrate, a negative collector, a solid electrolyte, a positive active material, and a positive collector in this order. Also, with the configuration of Shizuki, in order to prevent cracks in the cell, the lamination process used in Shizuki requires gaps to be formed between adjacent layers of the positive and negative electrodes. Thus, Shizuki cannot provide a positive electrode, a negative electrode, and a separator formed in close contact with each other. Accordingly, Shizuki cannot disclose

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or suggest that adjacent layers of the flexible elongated substrate, the negative collector, the solid electrolyte, the positive active material, and the positive collector respectively are in close contact with each other, as recited in claim 1.

Also, nowhere does Shizuki disclose a band-shaped laminate having a flexible elongated substrate made of an insulating material, a negative collector, a solid electrolyte, a positive active material, and a positive collector in this order is wound in a plate shape with the flexible elongated substrate placed inside. In contrast, Shizuki does not disclose which of the strip positive electrode 2, the separator 4 or the strip negative electrode 3 is placed inside. Figure 1 of Shizuki merely discloses that the negative collector member 6 is provided at a lower end of the winding body 21, just as the positive collector member 5 is provided at an upper end of the winding body 21 (see Figures 1 and 2 of Shizuki). Thus, even though it may appear that the negative collector 6 is shown in Figure 1 of Shizuki as being on the inside, it is not clear whether a separator 4 is placed in the innermost position. For at least these reasons claim 1 is not disclosed by Shizuki and should be allowed. Claims 3 and 4 depend from claim 1 and should be allowed for at least the same reasons.

§103 Rejections:

Claims 5 and 30 are rejected as being unpatentable over Shizuki. This rejection is traversed. Claims 5 and 30 depend from claim 1 and should be allowed for at least the same reasons discussed above. Applicants do not concede the correctness of this rejection.

Application Serial No: 10/815,151
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Conclusion:

Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1, 3-5 and 30 are in condition for allowance. If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, James A. Larson (Reg. No. 40,433), at (612) 455-3805.

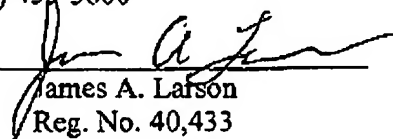


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Respectfully submitted,

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